Black History Month
Recommended Reading

Your library is home to many books and eBooks written by Black authors, as well as biographies, historical resources, films and more. Discover, learn and connect at your public library.

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For Children

Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut
by Derrick Barnes, Gordon C. James / 2017
Getting one's hair cut is an exciting experience and Barnes describes the feeling black and brown boys get after seeing their new haircut in the mirror.

The Little Boy from Jamaica: A Canadian History Story
by Devon and Pearlene Clunis, Emily Campbell / 2017
Devon Clunis was born in Jamaica and immigrated to Canada when he was a young boy. Clunis made history in Canada by becoming the first black Chief of Police.

Bintou quatre choux!
In English: Bintou’s Braids
par Sylviane A. Diouf / 2003
Bintou rêve de porter des tresses comme les autres femmes du village et découvre que la vraie beauté peut prendre des chemins détourés.

Tu sais que je t’aime très fort
par Alain Serge Dzotap / 2013
La relation entre un petit garçon africain et sa grand-mère qui partagent le goit des mots et des belles histoires.

Little Leaders: bold women in black history
by Vashti Harrison [2017]
With so many important black women in American history Harrison narrows down and focuses on forty who have done truly extraordinary things.

Malaika’s Winter Carnival
In French: Le carnaval de Malaika
by Nadia Hohn, Irene Luxbacher / 2017
Malaika adjusts to moving to Canada, having a new family and a new sister, and attending the winter carnival in Quebec.

Happy to be Nappy
by bell hooks, Chris Raschka / 1999
hooks expresses the joy of showing off one’s natural hair in her fun and poetic picture book.

I Came as a Stranger: The Underground Railroad
by Bryan Prince / 2004
Prince, a descendant of slaves, discusses those who made their way to Canada and the life that awaited them here.

The Kids Book of Black Canadian History
by Rosemary Sadlier / 2003
Sadlier sheds light on an often-overlooked history that highlights important figures and moments in history.

Crossing to Freedom
In French: L’ultime traversée vers la liberté
by Virginia Frances Schwartz / 2010
Young Solomon has fled a plantation to make his way to Canada with a group of other slaves, but their journey is dangerous and he realizes that racism knows no borders.

Underground to Canada
In French: Les chemins secrets de la liberté
by Barbara Smucker / 2010
Julilly is taken from her mother by slave traders to work on a plantation where she hears about the “Underground Railroad” which can take her and others to freedom.

Viola Desmond Won’t Be Budged
In French: La détermination de Viola Desmond
by Jody Nyasha Warner / 2010
In 1946 Viola Desmond was asked to move from her seat in the movie theatre because her “people” had to sit upstairs. Viola refused to move, this is her story.

Brown Girl Dreaming
by Jacqueline Woodson / 2014
Written in prose, Woodson’s novel explores her childhood growing up during the 1960’s and 1970’s in South Carolina and New York.

Voici Viola Desmond
In English: Meet Viola Desmond
by Elizabeth MacLeod / 2018
Viola Desmond est une pionnière en matière d’égalité raciale au Canada. C’est histoire raconte les événements courageux de Mme Desmond.

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**Fiction For Adults & Teens**

**Aya de Yopougon**
In English: Aya by Marguerite Abouet / 2005-2010 (Teens/Ados)
Une série de bandes dessinées qui suit le quotidien d’une fille de dix-neuf ans du Côte d’Ivoire à la fin des années 70.

**The African Trilogy: Things Fall Apart; No Longer At Ease; Arrow of God**
by Chinua Achebe / 1964
These acclaimed novels examine British colonization and its effects on three generations of Nigerians.

**Children of Blood and Bone**
by Tomi Adeyemi / 2018 (for Teens)
In a world where magic was outlawed, teen Zéli, her brother, and a princess fight to restore magic and bring back the magic.

**Fifteen Dogs**
by André Alexis / 2015
A bet between gods Hermes and Apollo gives dogs at a Toronto clinic human consciousness and language, and thus begins their struggles, division and joy as they venture out into the world.

**Parable of the Sower**
by Octavia E. Butler / 1993
In the near future, the world has descended into madness and anarchy. Lauren Olamina is forced out into the world where she conceives of a revolutionary idea that may save all of humankind.

**The Loneliness of Angels**
by Myriam J. Chancy / 2010
Told from five different perspectives, Chancy examines the role of spirituality in Caribbean life and culture.

**Autour de ton cou: nouvelles**
par Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie / 2013
Ces 12 nouvelles racontent le Nigéria d’aujourd’hui, essentiellement à travers des destins de femmes. Also available in English as The Thing Around Your Neck.

**They Never Told Me: And Other Stories**
by Austin Clarke / 2003
This short-story collection captures and gives voice to multiple characters’ lives.

**Black Panther**
by To-Nehsi Cootes, Brian Stelfreeze / 2018
Wakanda is in upheaval and King T’Challa struggles to be a ruler, a protector and keep the peace with the people of Wakanda.

**Washington Black**
by Esi Edugyan / 2018
“Wash” is an eleven-year-old field slave who embarks on an incredible journey with his master’s brother as they flee their home when a bounty is placed on Wash’s head. This title was discussed on the Time to Read podcast. wpl-podcast.winnipeg.ca

**Solo d’un revenant**
par Kossi Efoui / 2008
Le narrateur revient dans son pays africain après dix ans de massacres pour retrouver ses camarades.

**The Book of Negroes**
In French: Aminata : roman by Lawrence Hill / 2007
Aminata Diallo is taken from her home in West Africa, sent as a slave to South Carolina and forges her way to freedom.

**The Return**
In French: L’étrange du retour
by Dany Laferrière, trans. David Horneit / 2009
Having left Haiti for Montréal, the narrator must return after the death of his father, but will it be a different country from what he remembers?

**Monster**
by Walter Dean Myers, Christopher Myers / 1999
16-year-old Steve Harmon, on trial for murder to which he may or may not be guilty, begins to write a script of his trial as a way to cope.

**Odysseys Home: Mapping African-Canadian Literature**
by George Elliott Clarke / 2017
Clarke examines the history of the literature, the part it plays with oral culture as well as examining major African-Canadian writers.

**The Hanging of Angélique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montréal**
by Alain Cooper / 2000

Cooper’s book sheds light on the life of slave Marie-Joseph Angélique who was found guilty in 1734 of starting a blaze in Montréal that burned down forty-six buildings.

**Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements**
by Chorlène A. Corruthers / 2018
Queer feminist organizer Charlene Carruthers offers a guide on making social justice movements more focused and effective.

**Washington Black**
by Esi Edugyan / 2018

Pulitzer Prize winner focuses on the lives of African-African women in Georgia during the 1930s and 40s. Also available in our collection.

**The Underground Railroad**
by Colson Whitehead / 2016
Cora and Caesar, both slaves on a plantation in Georgia, hear about the Underground Railroad as a chance for freedom and both decide to take the risk. This title was discussed on the Time to Read podcast. wpl-podcast.winnipeg.ca

**Non-Fiction For Adults**

**I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**
by Maya Angelou / 1969
Angelou’s heartbreaksing and beautifully written autobiography details her painful childhood up to the age of 16 and her strength in overcoming her past and finding freedom.

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**Canada in Africa: 300 Years of Aid and Exploitation**
by Yves Engler / 2015
Author Yves Engler uses public record and research to take a critical look at Canadian involvement in colonialism and imperialism in Africa.

**Sisters of the Yam: Black Women and Self-Recovery**
by bell hooks / 1993
hooks examines how daily assaults of racism and sexism is affecting the emotional health of black women.

**This Will Be My Undoing: Living at the Intersection of Black, Female, and Feminist in (White) America**
by Morgan Jerkins / 2018
Harlem based writer Morgan Jerkins discusses feminism, racism, misogny, and Black female oppression coming from inside as well as outside the Black community and how it has affected her life.

**In the Black**
by B. Denham Jolly / 2017
B. Denham Jolly moved to Toronto from Jamaica in the 1950s and writes about his social activism and struggles in overcoming discrimination.

**Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present**
by Robyn Maynard / 2017
Writer and activist Robyn Maynard examines the history of Black lives in Canada and the struggles that are still realities today.

**So You Want to Talk About Race**
by Ijeoma Oluo / 2018
Author Ijeoma Oluo offers suggestions to all readers on how to bring up and discuss difficult questions about race.

**Can’t Touch My Hair: And Other Things I Have to Explain**
by Phoebe Robinson / 2018
Stand-up comedian Phoebe Robinson uses humour to talk about culture and the prejudices and absurdities she has faced as a black woman.

**Feel Free**
by Zadie Smith / 2018
Zadie Smith’s collection of essays covers topics such as social networking, libraries, and recent events in culture and politics.

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